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THE CROSS-TIME PAPER- EXCALIBUR

KURT WAGNER...
WARLORD
OF
?





TWIN MOONS RULED THE SKY THE NIGHT THEY FELL TO EARTH--

--NOT THE WORLD THEY KNEW, NOR ANY THEY'D EVER DREAMED OF...



--BUT A WILD, WEIRDING PLACE SOON TO BE CHERISHED AND FOUGHT FOR, AND EVEN LOVED...

--AS HOME.



WARLORD

IT'S A STORY THAT BEGINS WITH THE CLASH OF ARMS...

...COUNTERPOINTED BY THE SCREAMS OF THE MAINED AND DYING...

--AS A SLEEK PIRATE CORSAIR MATCHES STEEL WITH AN IMPERIAL CRUISER.

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING EXCALIBUR

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THE MASTHEAD PENNANTS MARK THE CRUISER AS CARRYING ONE OF THE BLOOD ROYAL--

"--NO LESS A PERSONAGE, IN FACT, THAN THE PRINCESS ANJULIE HERSELF."

"AND, IN HER DEFENSE, THE SCIPPERS RUN SCARLET WITH THE LIVES OF LESSER-BORN-- BUT FAR MORE NOBLE-- WARRIORS."

"THEIR IS A VALIANT EFFORT."

"DOOMED FROM THE START."

"FOR THEIR DREAD AND HATE-FILLED FOES WILL NOT BE DENIED THEIR PRIZE."

STAND FORTH, ANJULIE!
DO YOUR SERVANTS THE HONOR OF FACING YOUR END AS BRAVELY AS TH

HEY!?!?

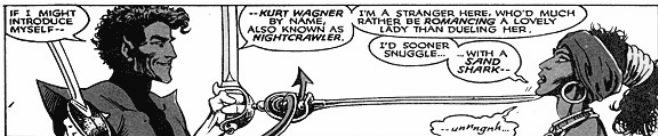
THE SKY--
AFLAME!

OH?!?

WHOMP

OW!?





IMAGINE, FOR EVERY WORLD YOU KNOW, THERE EXISTS AN INFINITE NUMBER OF COUNTERPARTS. ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS -- ALL THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HAD CREATION CRAFTED JUST A FRACTION DIFFERENTLY.

FROM ONE SUCH EARTH, CAME THIS BAND OF ADVENTURERS, EXCALIBUR.

CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

NIGHT-CRAWLER.

MESSENGER.

PHOENIX.

THEIR FRIEND, AUSTRIAN STUART.

LOCK-HEED.

SHADOW-CAT.

"AND, LASTLY, THE CHARACTER RESPONSIBLE FOR CASTING THEM, AND THEIR TRAIN..."

"...INTO THIS CROSSTIME STREAM."

"A SEMI-SENTIENT ROBOT, CHRISTENED WIDGET."

"WHOSE PRIMARY ABILITY SEEMS TO BE TO BOUNCE THEM FROM ONE WORLD TO THE NEXT ALONG THE SIDEREAL STRING."

"BUT WITH NO WAY TO CONTROL WIDGET, THEY'VE NO IDEA WHERE THEY'LL END UP AFTER EACH JAUNT. AND EVEN LESS..."

"...HOW TO RETURN TO THEIR TRUE HOME."

"THIS ARRIVAL PROVES ROUGHER THAN MOST."

"A SUDDEN LURCH, A SHATTERED WINDOW..."

"...COMMITTS NIGHTCRAWLER TO HIS FATE."

"BUT HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE SO CAST ADRIFF..."

Phewee! YEW!

WHAT IS THAT SMELL?!

US, I'M AFRAID.

WE'RE IN A SMOKEHOUSE, RAY.

FOR THE OBVIOUS REASON.









IN THE MEANWHILE,
NIGHTCRAWLER...

NAY!

Forbear!

PROTEST! MOST
VEHEMENT! !!

QUERY: FATE
OF ENTITIES,
NOMENCLATURE
"KITTY" AND
"RAY"

WHA'
HOPPEN'A
GALS?!

"WELL,
IF YOU
INSIST..."

"TURNS OUT NO ONE
PRESENT MUCH
LIKED THE COOK."

"BUT THEY WERE
MUCH IMPRESSED
BY THE FIGHTING
PROWESS AND
COURAGE SHOWN
BY THE TWO GIRLS."

"ARMED AND OUTFITTED
ACCORDING TO THEIR
NEW STATION..."

RAY-- YOU SURE
YOU DON'T FEEL
JUST THE TEENIEST
DRAFT?



Britain,
Captain and
Stuart, Alistaire
and Meggan,
yes?

YES.

"HIS IS A TALE
OUT OF LEGEND..."

WHAT A
BUMP!

WISH I COULD
REMEMBER...

BUT
WE'LL
COME
TO THEM
LATER.

NOW, IT'S
NIGHT-
CRAWLER'S
TURN

"...OF FEATS BEYOND
IMAGINING."

WHAT
HIT ME?

GREETINGS,
PALADIN.

GLAD
I AM TO
SEE YOU
UP AND
ABOUT.



"HE FACED THE MOST FEARSOME OF DANGERS..."

THERE ARE THOSE WHO EVER CHOSE TO STRIKE...

EVIDENTLY, SOMEONE KNOCKED ME OUT WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING.

"...THE MOST INDESCRIBABLE OF PERILS..."

...ONLY WHEN THEIR FOE'S BACK IS TURNED.

BUT FOR YOUR INTERCESSION, WARRIOR...

...I'D HAVE SURELY BEEN SLAIN.

Uh...

...HIGHNESS...?

WHERE oh WHERE oh TELEPORTING POWER...

...WHEN I REALLY NEED IT...

YAIKES!

AMONG MY PEOPLE...

...THAT MEANS MY LIFE IS YOURS...

--TO DO WITH AS YOU WILL!

"...AND COPED IN AN INIMITABLE STYLE..."

"...UNIQUELY HIS OWN."



I'M SURE YOU CAN GUESS
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

WHAT
KIND OF
STORY IS
THIS?

NO MORE
MUSH-
STUFF!

IF YOU
INSIST...

IT'S TIME WE INTRODUCED
AUSTRALE STUART-- WHO FINDS
HIMSELF IN AN EQUALLY
TRADITIONAL, EQUALLY-- PERILOUS
SITUATION.

Huff'n
puff'n

Huff'n
puff'n

WE WANT
ADVENTURE!

"HE'S A MAN POSSESSED
BY AN INSATIABLE
CURIOSITY-- FOR PEOPLE,
PLACES, ANYTHING
AND EVERYTHING.

"--WOULD BE
A DELIGHT.

"HE'S USED TO BEING AN OBSERVER--
STANDING OUTSIDE THE ACTION, TAKING
NOTES, MOSTLY UNTOUCHED AND UN-
AFFECTED BY WHAT GOES ON AROUND HIM.

"HERE, THAT ISN'T
POSSIBLE.

"ORDINARILY,
A WORLD
LIKE THIS--
SO TOTALLY
UNLIKE
HIS OWN--

FAR AS
YEW GO,
CHUM.

"AND HE ISN'T
AT ALL SURE
HE LIKES IT.

LUCKY FOR
YEW, MEAT,
PRINCESS
WANTS YEW
OUTLAND HIDE
INTACT.

KEEP
PUSHIN'
YEW LUCK,
THOUGH...

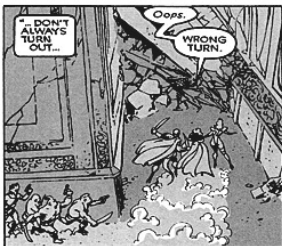
"YEW HIDE'S
ALL SHELL BE
GETTIN'.

FUNNY, WE
WERE THINKING
PRETTY MUCH
THE SAME...

...ABOUT
YOU.

RELEASE OUR
FRIEND, OKAY.

OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES.





"MEANWHILE, BLISSFULLY UNWARE OF HIS TEAM MATE'S FLIGHT..."

"...NIGHTCRAWLER FINALLY BESTIRS HIS BATTERED, BESOTTEN SELF..."

Uh-hhh...

Whuh?

PRINCESS--
WHO'S SHE
TALKING
TO?

HIS SKIN--
HIDEOUS!
BUT-- ach, MY
ACHING HEAD--
WHO AM I TO
JUDGE BY
APPEARANCE?

WONDER
WHAT'S UP?

IS IT ANY
OF MY
BUSINESS?

ONE SURE
WAY TO
FIND OUT.

HARDLY THE WAY A
PROPER GUEST BEHAVES.

EXCEPT-- I
CAN'T SHAKE
THE FEELING...

...SOME-
THING'S
WRONG.

I REMEMBER HOW THE PIRATE
QUEEN-- KYMIR!-- SPOKE AFTER
I'D DEFEATED HER...

...AS THOUGH I'D
COMMITTED SOME
UNPARDONABLE CRIME.

COULD BE THE TRADITIONAL
RIVALRY BETWEEN AN OUTLAW
AND THE ESTABLISHED ORDER.

WITH
MY OWN
NATURE
SIDING
TOWARDS
THE PIRATE.

ANJULIE
SEEMS SO
LOVELY...
...ON THE
SURFACE.

LIKE
HER
CITY.

THESE
DUNGEONS
ARE
TRULY
FOUL.

KWIKLEKHO

BY
HEAVEN--
IN THAT
CELL--
PICA!

WHAT'S
BEEN
DONE
TO
YOU?!

OWWW!

A FATE
BETTER
RESERVED...
...FOR THE
LIKES OF
YOU!



CHOKE HOLD--

--SHE'S VERY GOOD--

--NO LEVERAGE--

--FOR HANDS TO BREAK ME FREE.

FORTUNATELY...



YANK

OWH!

...I HAVE ALTERNATIVES.



YOU!
BUT ANJULIE SAID YOU'D BEEN SLAIN IN BATTLE!

LYING IS THE LEAST OF HER TALENTS.
AND WHY SHOULD I CARE WHETHER I DIE A WARRIOR...

--OR A SACRIFICE?!



NO ONE'S TO BE SACRIFICED...

...IF I'VE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER.



YOU WON'T.

YOU'RE PROBABLY HER NEXT VICTIM.

IF YOU THINK, THOUGH, I'LL BARTER MY LIFE WITH MY HONOR...

I'VE NO DESIGNS ON EITHER...

HAH!

-- I SIMPLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?!



GROANNN!

KNOW THAT TONE.

SURE CUE FOR ROMANCE.

COMES FROM THE TERRITORY.

PALEAPPEAN!

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC!



IN THIS INSTANCE, THOUGH, ALL NIGHTCRAWLER GETS IS SOME NECESSARY BACKGROUND.

THE CITADEL, IN CASE YOU HADN'T GUESSED, IS KYMRI'S...

UNTIL ANJULIE ARRIVED-- WHEN KYMRI HAD BEEN DRIVEN INTO OUTLAW EXILE-- ALL THE MAGIC WENT OUT OF THINGS...

SOON AFTER-- WHEN KYMRI HAD BEEN DRIVEN INTO OUTLAW EXILE-- ALL THE MAGIC WENT OUT OF THINGS...



...AS THOUGH THE WORLD ITSELF WAS BEING DRAINED OF ITS PRIMAL LIFE-FORCE.

NIGHTCRAWLER, OF COURSE, IS MIGHTILY ASHAMED OF SIDING WITH THE BAD GUYS...

...NOT TO MENTION ROYALLY EMBARRASSED...

...AT NOT SENSING THE TRUTH ABOUT ANJULIE.

HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE A HERO.

EVER INCLINED TO TRUST THE BEAUTIFUL BABE.

MEN-- *sigh*-- CAN BE SO PREDICTABLE. RAMMING HORMONES. Y'SEE, THEY CAN'T REALLY HELP THEMSELVES.

"ALTHOUGH, IN ALL FAIRNESS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ANJULIE WAS, *ahem*, THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT SHE DID.

"NIGHTCRAWLER DETERMINED TO MAKE AMENDS...

"...FIRSTLY BY FREEING KYMRI FROM HER CELL.

"THEN, ACQUIRING BOTH WEAPONS...

"...AND APPROPRIATE ATTIRE FOR HIMSELF.

"ANJULIE'S TRAIL LED THEM TO THE DEEPEST CATACOMBS OF THE FLOATING CITY.

"AND, AT EVERY LEVEL, HORROR PILED UPON HORROR."

MY PEOPLE...

MY CREW...

...IS THIS WHAT'S BECOME OF THEM?!

WHAT WAS TO BECOME...

...OF ME?

I HEAR CHANTING. STAY BACK.

THESE DEATHS ARE MINE...

...TO AVENGE.

LOVE HAVE MERCY!

"WHAT IT WAS, WHERE IT CAME FROM, NOBODY KNEW. ALL THEY COULD TELL FROM THAT FIRST, TERRIBLE SIGHT WAS THAT THERE WAS A CREATURE WHOSE INSATIABLE APPETITES WERE MATCHED ONLY BY ITS RAW, FUNDAMENTAL EVIL."

THE
LIFELIGHT
GLOWS WITHIN
ME, SERVITOR.
NEVER HAVE I
HAD SUCH A
GLORIOUS
FEEDING!

SUCH
IS MY
DUTY
MASTE

AND MY
JOY.

EXCALIBUR--
AND THE
DRAGONS!

THAT
MONSTER'S
EATING
THEM
ALIVE!!

SAVE YOUR
FRIENDS,
NIGHT-
CRAWLER--

--IF
YOU
CAN--

WHILE I DEAL
WITH ANJULIE AND
HER DEVIL-PRIEST!



...TO SEE...





...I'LL HAVE TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS!

NIGHTCRAWLER--
ARE YOU NUTS?!!

AND GIVE
THIS CREATURE
WHAT IT
APPEARS MOST
AFRAID OF!

WE'RE ALL OF US IN
EXALIBUR--PEOPLE AND DRAGONS--
TOUCHED WITH MAGICK. SOME MORE
THAN OTHERS. I'LL WAGER THAT'S
WHY OUR POWERS WON'T WORK HERE.



THAT LOOK--
RACHEL,
PLEASE UNDER-
STAND.

SOMEHOW THE CREATURE'S
INFLUENCE DENIES US
DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM. IT
CAN STEAL THAT ESSENCE
GRADUALLY, AT A DISTANCE,
OR DIRECTLY.



BUT THAT'S
THE WORLD'S
MAGICK.

YOU, RACHEL, AS PHOENIX,
HAVE ACCESS TO THE
CORE, PRIMAL LIFE-FORCE
OF THE ENTIRE COSMOS.



WHICH,
HOPEFULLY, IS
MORE RAW
ENERGY...



...THAN THAT
HORROR
CAN HANDLE.

"CALL IT
THE MADDEST
OF GAMBLERS..."

"...AN ALL-
OR-NOTHING
CAST OF
THE DIE.

"BECAUSE, IF NIGHTCRAWLER WAS
WRONG, HIS ACT WOULD NOT ONLY
DOOM HIS FRIENDS..."

"...BUT VERY POSSIBLY--
BY GIVING THE CREATURE
THE INFINITE POWER
OF THE PHOENIX--"

"--ALL
CREATION
AS WELL."

THE STORY'S FAR
FROM ENDED, GENTLE
AUDIENCE.

WHEN YOU
RETURN, AFTER
A BRIEF
INTERMISSION,
I'LL TELL
YOU...

...WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT!

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Caliburs,

The fight between the Captain Britains was excellently portrayed.

Marshall Rogers' pencils were perfect. This was easily the best issue yet, of all ten issues of EXCALIBUR. One note of criticism, let's have some guest appearances, okay?

Well, chaps, *ta ta*, time for tea with the Queen.

Keith Rosson
713 SW Minnie
Newport, OR 97365

So you say you want more guest stars, Keith? How did EXCALIBUR #14 grab you? It guest-starred the whole Marvel Universe—sort of!

Dear Sword Strokes,

This letter is in regard to EXCALIBUR #10.

I'm wondering what transpired between issue #9 and the third page of issue #10. Did Meggan make her counterpart and defeat her? In issue #9, page 23, she appears to be from the Lightning Squad—which makes sense because she has control of her "chameleon" effect. So tell me, on page 3 is this the "cured" Meggan we all know like about and love? Or is she still part of Lightning Squad? Better yet tell me what cured her . . .

Not to get sidetracked, but what did Kitty have to pick up? It looked like her counterpart's costume.

I have to hand it to you guys, this is still one of the best (semi-)mutant mags, since THE X-MEN. I look forward to collecting every issue.

If I may add a suggestion: Please increase Nightcrawler's teleportational abilities. It seems with a power like his he could travel greater distances. Please heed him fast.

Another footnote, cut down on the guest pencils, also keep up with the letter column, it answers a lot of my questions.

Donald J. Hurst
36 Poplar Rd.
Wellesley, MA 02181

Hopefully by now the question you asked about Meggan's, and Captain Britain's, for that matter—"miracle cure" is answered for you. Check out issue #13 as well as Kitty's mystery errand in issue #11.

The "big switch" occurred off-panel—as we like to say around here.

Thanks for the compliment on the letters page, Donald—we live to serve!

Dearest Excalibites,

Like everyone else, I am a heavy-duty EXCALIBUR fan, and have been since day one. The plots, stories, etc., have been fantastic, but please, please, PLEASE do not let anyone but Alan Davis and Paul Neary touch the artwork! Or at least, could you limit the guest artists more than you have? To us fans, Davis and Neary are EXCALIBUR, and no one else compares. It's really disappointing to wait so patiently for a whole month, only to find your beloved characters replaced by someone's scribbles. We can't even recognize them! I can understand that all the other artists are dying to get a crack at

the best comic Marvel has to offer, but please remember us fans! Mr. Neary, Mr. Davis, please continue with your fine work, and don't let someone else take what is rightfully yours. Also, thank you for not putting ugly ads on the back cover of the comics. I just love the beautiful artwork on the front and back. Well, I tried to make it short and sweet.

Ms. Jennifer Oddo
(Address withheld by request)

Alan and Paul thank you for your devotion to their versions of the Excalibur crew, Jennifer. They are very busy trying to bring EXCALIBUR to you every month and sometimes, to relieve the pressure we call in a little help from some of our other great artists. So we're sorry if you missed them for a couple of issues, but rest assured they are here to stay! The pinups are here to stay too!

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR #10 was perfect! However, I must admit that Kitty's doppelganger, portrayed as a demon/ghost Jew, was sick and disgusting. Yet the story was written very well, and it makes up for that.

A few questions:

1) How old is Kitty? She just happens to be my favorite mutant of all.

2) Since Kitty's doppelganger is Jewish, does that mean Kitty is Jewish also?

One last thing, on page 24, where Kitty phases Widget, her sleeve rips. On the next page, as she's walking into the hall and speaks to her doppelganger there is no rip. My explanation is that after she phases Widget, she loosely pins up her sleeve with something like a few bobbypins. But as she gets mad at the Nazis, the pins fall out. What do you think—a No-Prize? I'm anxiously awaiting issue #11, hopefully including the Technet. I caught the photographs on "Courtney's" desk.

Scott Goodman
492 Willow Ct.
Novato, CA 94945

Looks like you've earned yourself a No-Prize, Scott!

As for your questions:

- 1) Not old enough to vote.
- 2) Kitty has always been Jewish.

Dear Marvel,

EXCALIBUR is becoming better with each issue and it is now the best of the mutant related Marvel comics on the market—issue 10 being the best of the issues so far. I was delighted to see Captain Britain wearing his old costume, and I hope that he continues to wear it in future stories. The whole story involving Lightning Squad was superb and I hope I will see them in future stories. Perhaps a story in which Excalibur travels to their dimension and join the underground movement there would be in order?

In future issues I would like to see the question of how Mystique and Nightcrawler are related resolved. Also I feel that at least some of the questions surrounding Rachel and her past are crying out to be resolved. Please?

I am looking forward to learning more about Widget and his powers in the next

issue. From what I can gather in #10 he can act as a portal between dimensions and thus this would give Excalibur a brilliant opportunity to cross paths with people like the Squadron Supreme and Thundra. Both of which would make great guest stars and would fit in with the mood of the book. Speaking of Thundra she'd make a great addition to the team.

Finally, I would like to see other European heroes and villains in this comic, which after all is based in Europe, with perhaps some new members added to the ranks of Excalibur coming from these European heroes.

Weston Allen
Slaney View, Buncoldy
Co. Wexford, Ireland

You made some very interesting comments and suggestions. Wes. You can be assured that Lightning Squad will return in the not-too-distant future, so be on the look out! We have no immediate plans for the Squadron Supreme here in EXCALIBUR, but you can see them in their very own Graphic Novel, coming soon. As for Thundra, well as we've said before—in this book, anything can happen! Bye!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Meggan's costume must go! It's not that I have anything against it fellas, it's just so...bland! So please, please, get rid of it!

Make mine EXCALIBUR!!!

Jeff Woodrue
(Address withheld by request)

Well, Jeff, how do you like her new duds that she has acquired as of issue #14? We think it's great!

NEXT ISSUE:

SEARCH FOR A HERO . . .

